



VAN METER ORCHARDS – 3800 120th Road – Thayer, KS 66776

January 19, 2002

**Attorney Renata Hesse
Justice Department
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530**

Dear Attorney Hesse,

Our generation is truly experiencing a new frontier. The software industry has experienced a rate of change, superceding any growth previously experienced in business to date. Since the Microsoft lawsuit was introduced in 1998, the industry has changed and grown in countless ways, making the original suit obsolete. But this "living" lawsuit has changed right along with it, seeming to answer each new product introduction and each new bit of technology.

We have seen shifts in the market as more and more flock to using highly portable handheld devices, leaving PC's behind. We have seen Microsoft's competitors get larger, stronger and more powerful with every merge. Trying to capture and define the liquid mercury of this industry is practically impossible as each new development opens the door to countless opportunities for innovation. We can only do our best.

It is time to address this lawsuit in real time and put it behind us. Please, heartfully consider endorsing the proposed settlement. Let's all look toward the future and let the market set the standard.

Thank You,

Dale J. Van Meter

Dale Van Meter